

St. Luke's Episcopal Church – Stephenville, TX
The First Sunday Of Advent
November 29th, 2026
8:00 am & 10:00 am & 5:30 pm

Elections, Christmas Market, Bake sale, & Silent Auction to follow at 11:00

To All Who Are Joyful And Thankful, To All Who Mourn And Need Comfort
To All Who Are Weary And Need Rest, To All Who Are Friendless And Wish Friendship
To All Who Pray And Who Do Not But Ought, To All Who Sin And Need A Savior.
And To Whoever Will, The Church Opens Wide The Door
And In The Name Of Christ, The Lord Says Welcome.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Celebrant There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came to bear witness to the coming of the light so that all might believe through him. *John 1:6-7*

As the second candle is lit, Celebrant and People pray:
O God, help us to be ready for the coming of your son, the light of the world, by making room for him in our hearts. Amen.

The Processional Hymn
The Hymnal 1982 #65 Prepare the way to Zion

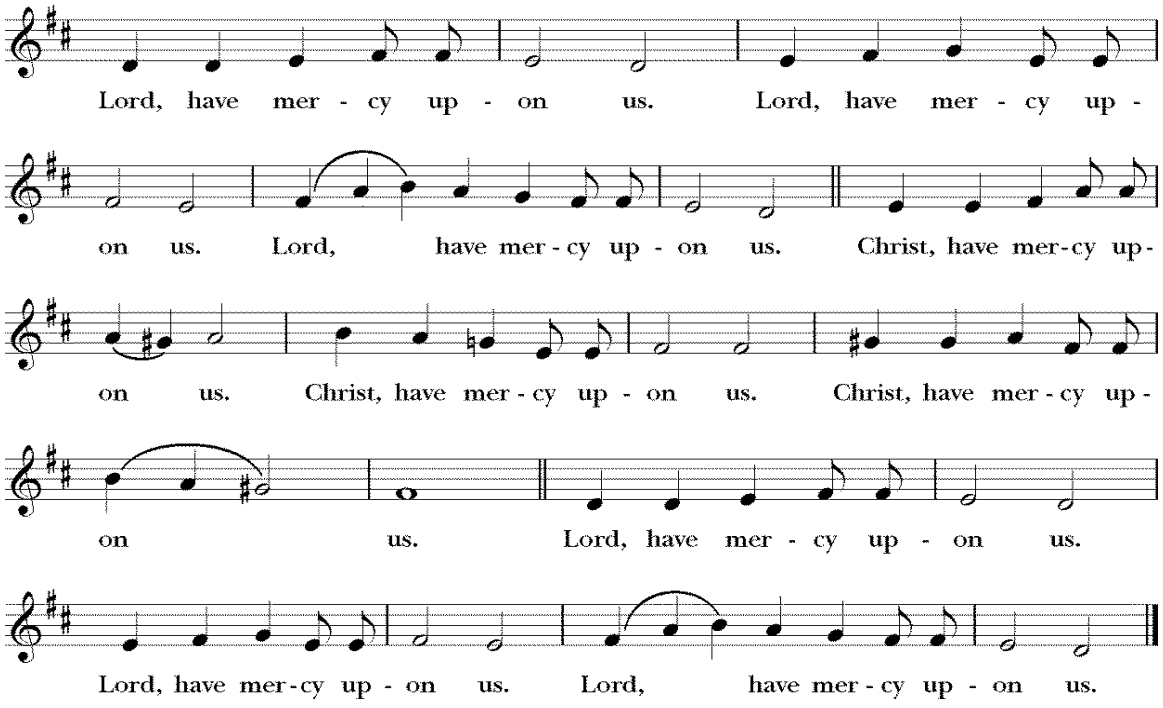
The people standing, as are able, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

The Kyrie

The Hymnal S 91



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The Collect of the Day
The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Readings
All are seated.

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 40:1-11)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 *Benedixisti, Domine (Read responsively by full verse.)*

1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.

8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.

9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

A Reading from the second letter of Peter (2 Peter 3:8-15a)

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Hymn
The Hymnal 1982 #64 Once O Heavenly Word, Eternal Light

Then, all standing, as are able, the Deacon reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Mark** (1:1-8).

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

> "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
> who will prepare your way;
> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
> 'Prepare the way of the Lord,
> make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon The Rev. Bradley Dyche
A brief time of reflection will follow the Sermon

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People: Form VI
The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our presiding bishop and for Andy, Jeff, Kay, Hector and all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
St. Luke's List is read here for Illnesses and Other Special Needs and Concerns

Silence

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
St. Luke's List of Thanksgivings, Birthdays and Anniversaries is read here

Silence

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
St. Luke's List of the deceased is read here.

Silence

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People in unison

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant stands and says
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**.

The Peace
All stand, as are able. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Birthdays & Anniversaries
Kenneth Stokes (6th), John Greer (9th)

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing of a Kneeler for the use of prayer and devotion by Anne Egelston and Gene Jackson:

We present to you this kneeler to be set apart for the service of Christ's holy Church.

The following versicles and prayer may be said

Versicle: All things come from you, O Lord;
Response: **And from your own gifts do we give to you.**
Versicle: Prosper the work of our hands;
Response: **Prosper our handiwork.**

Versicle: Show your servants your works;
Response: **And your splendor to their children.**

Almighty God, we thank you that you have put it into the hearts of your people to make offerings for your service and have been pleased to accept their gifts. Be with us now and bless us as we set apart this kneeler to your praise and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

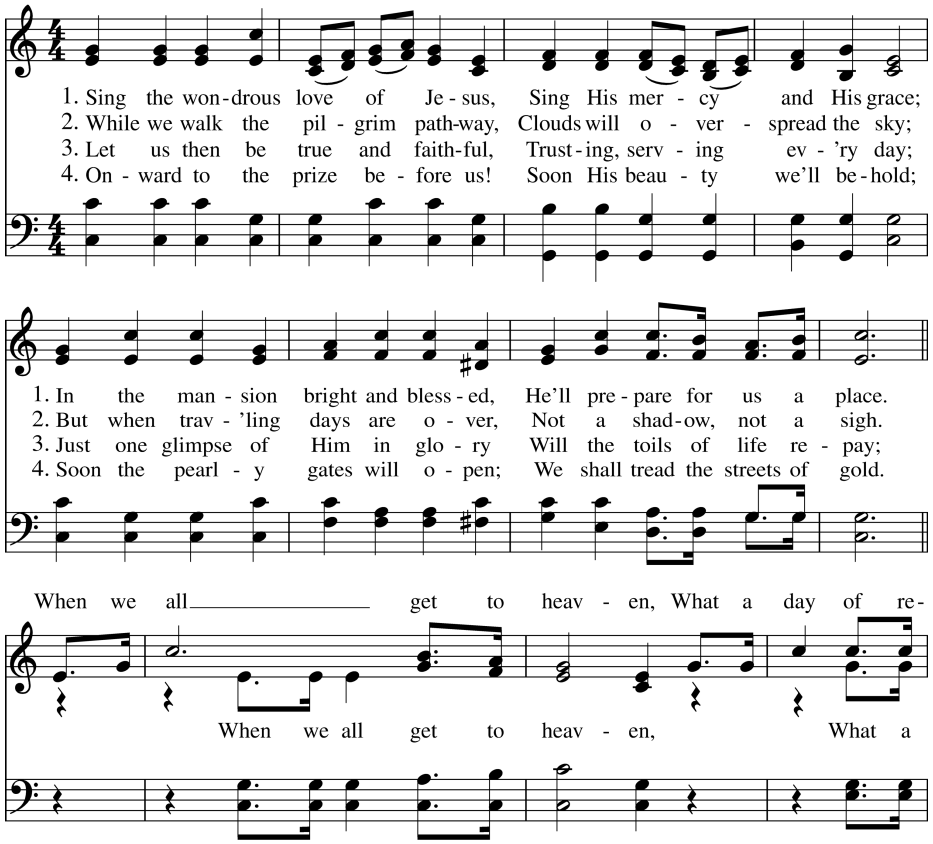
For the Benefactors
We bless your Name, O Lord, because it has pleased you to enable your servants Anne and Gene to offer this gift for your worship. Remember them for good, and grant that all who benefit from this gift may show their thankfulness to you by using it in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

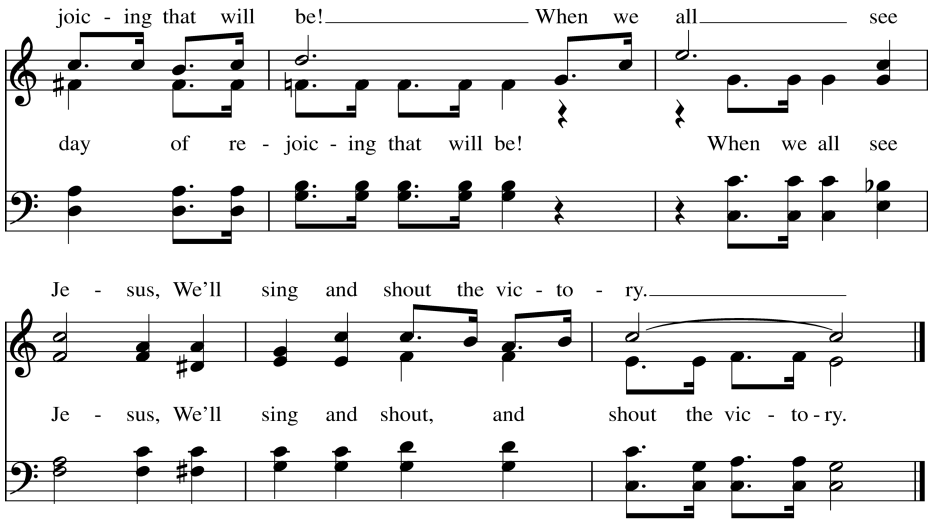
The Offertory
The Celebrant says to the people

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

If you would like to give to St. Luke's, you can place money in the offering plate at the Service or you can Text to give to (254) 282-0706, then enter amount (ex. $50),
you can also give online at https://stlukesstephenville.breezechms.com/give/online
or you can mail your offering to ***St. Luke's, PO Box 2506, Stephenville, TX 76401***

The Offertory Hymn
Lift Every Voice & sing II #20 When we all get to heaven





Words: Eliza Edmunds Hewitt (1852-1920). Music: Emily Divine Wilson (1865-1942).

The Doxology *(sung to The Hymnal 380)*

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye Heavenly Host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving
Eucharistic Prayer A
The people remain standing, as are able. The Celebrant says

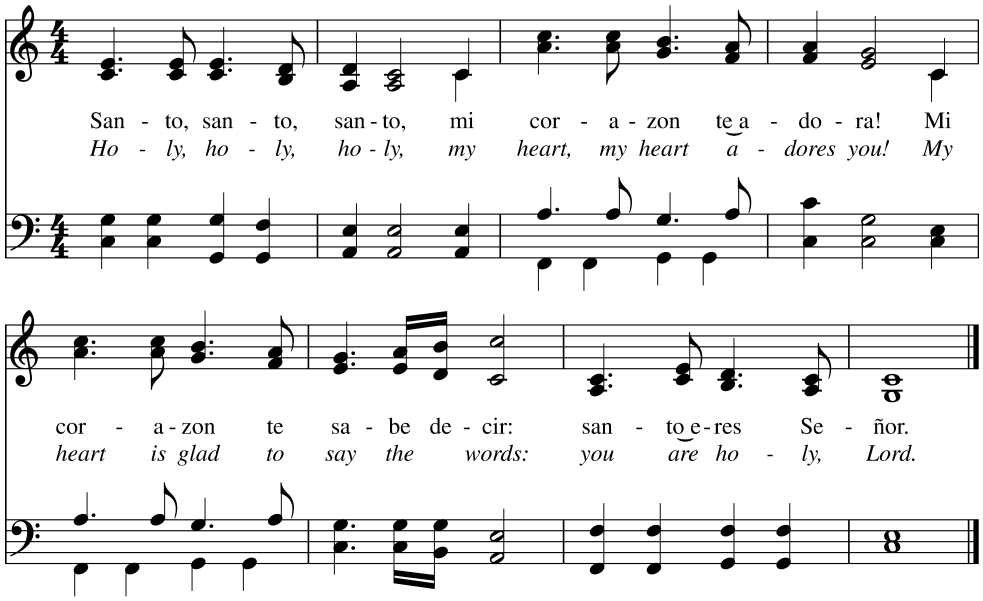
	The Lord be with you.
People	**And also with you.**
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	**We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Santo, santo, santo *[Holy, holy, holy]*



Words: Variation on a traditional liturgical text. Music: Composer of melody unknown; arr. based on a two-part version as taught by Pablo D. Sosa (b. 1933).

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The people kneel as are able

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen**.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation
The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Distribution of Holy Communion

Concerning Holy Communion

*"This the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.
It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.
So come, you who have much faith, and you who have little,
you who have been here often and you who have not been here long,
you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.
It is his will that those who want him should meet him here."*

❧

*If you do not wish to receive the sacrament, we invite you to come forward for a blessing.
Simply cross your arms over your chest and the priest will bless you.*

❧

Communion Hymn
The Hymnal 1982 #343 Shepherd of souls refresh and bless

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Priest gives the blessing
May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Processional
The Hymnal 1982 #76 On Jordan's bank the Baptists cry

The Dismissal

The Celebrant, dismisses them with these words
Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Thank you for taking the time to visit with us today. We feel truly blessed that you chose to be with us here at St. Luke's. It is great to have you worship with us and hope you feel truly welcomed. We welcome you back next Sunday and look forward to seeing you again soon.

From the Calendar of Saints

December 6 Nicholas *Bishop of Myra, c. 342*
Traditional patron of seafarers and sailors, and especially of children, Nicholas became Santa Claus to Dutch colonists in New York. He suffered torture and imprisonment during the Diocletian persecution.

December 7 Ambrose *Bishop of Milan, 397*
Before he had even been baptized, Ambrose was unexpectedly nominated bishop by the acclaim of a mob he was trying to calm. He rapidly became a defender of orthodoxy against the Arian heresy, and introduced antiphonal chanting into worship.

December 8th Nicolas Ferrar *Deacon, 1637*
Nicholas Ferrar was the founder of a religious community at Little Gidding, Huntingdonshire, England, which existed from 1626 to 1646. His family had been prominent in the affairs of the Virginia Company, but when that company was dissolved, he took deacon's orders and
retired to the country.

December 11 Fredrick Howden, Jr. *Priest and Chaplain of the Armed Forces, 1942*
When World War II broke out, Howden held the rank of captain in the New Mexico State Guard. He was the chaplain to the 200th Coast Artillery when it was federalized and sent to the Philippines in 1941. He walked across the hills, from battery to battery, holding open-air services and distributing candy, soap, and cigarettes he had foraged for the troops.

When Bataan and Corregidor fell to Japanese forces in April and May 1942, Howden and his fellow soldiers were made prisoners of war and were forced to endure the Bataan Death March, during which some 18,000 died. During imprisonment, his heroism and faith were always apparent through the care he provided. Howden often gave his own food rations to others, insisting that they needed it more. He died of dysentery and starvation-induced pellagra on December 11, 1942.

December 12 Francis de Sales *Bishop*, and Jane de Chantal *Vowed Religious Workers of Charity, 1622 and 1641*

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Clergy

The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche – Rector
The Rev. Mark Witte – Curate
The Rev. Leslie Guinn – Assisting

Staff

Kara Barnes – Parish Administrator
Duncan McMahan – Organist
Gail Johnson & Kelly Barbee – Altar Guild Directresses
The Rev. Mark Witte – ECM Missioner
Neely Carter – Vestry Secretary
Emma Gomez – Technology Minister

Vestry

Term Ending 2026 – Kelly Barbee, Malcolm Cross
Term Ending 2027 – Doug McLemore & Allison Haynes
Term Ending 2028 – Gail Johnson & Dylan Dowell